SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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British Medical Association.

CURRENT NOTES.

Direct Representatives on the General Medical Council.

The terms of office of the present direct representatives of the profession on the General Medical Council expire on December 31st next, and an election to fill the vacancies will be held in November. The present representatives are: for England and Wales, Dr. J. A. Macdonald, Dr. R. A. Bolam, Sir Jenner Verrall, and Mr. E. B. Turner; for Scotland, Sir Norman Walker; and for Ireland, Dr. Leonard Kidd. In regard to the election of four direct representatives for England and Wales for the period 1925-29, arrangements for the nomination of candidates by the British Medical Association have been made. The following seven practitioners have been suggested by Divisions of the Association: Dr. R. A. Bolam (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Dr. H. B. Brackenbury (Hornsey), Dr. C. E. K. Herapath (Bristol), Dr. J. A. Macdonald (Taunton), Dr. Peter Macdonald (York), Mr. E. B. Turner (London), and Sir Jenner Verrall (Leatherhead). These names will be submitted to a meeting of English and Welsh representatives at the forthcoming Annual Representative Meeting to be held at Bradford in July next, and the selection of the Association's four nominees will be determined by that meeting, and the machinery of the Association, local and central, will be used with a view to securing their return.

Excursions at the Bradford Annual Meeting.

Dr. B. Wade, who is in charge of transport in connexion with the forthcoming Annual Meeting at Bradford, informs us that efforts are being made to run the various excursions by private motor cars, rather than by chars-à-banc. A number of local private cars will be available, but more will be needed. Members making the journey to Bradford by road, who wish to use their own cars for any of the excursions, will be welcome to do so, and any accommodation they can offer to others will be gratefully accepted. Excursions are being arranged for the following days: Sunday, July 20th (whole day); Wednesday, July 23rd (half day); Thursday, July 24th (half day); Friday, July 25th (half day); Saturday, July 26th (whole day). Garage accommodation for visitors is hard to obtain in Bradford, but if members will notify Dr. Wade he will do his best to assist them. Members wishing for information regarding transport generally are invited to communicate with him (Willow Cottage, Little Horton Lane, Bradford), stating name and address, make and horse-power of car, seating capacity (excluding driver), and registered number of car; also whether they are able and willing to accommodate on the excursions another visitor or two.

National Health Insurance: Investigation of Excessive Prescribing.

The attention of insurance practitioners is drawn to a letter from the Ministry of Health, dated May 27th, 1924, appearing in this issue of the Supplement (p. 293), dealing with the procedure which is being followed in connexion with the investigation of alleged excessive prescribing. It will be seen that, before any further action of a disciplinary nature is taken by the Ministry, a general survey of prescribing throughout the country is to be undertaken by the regional medical staff of the Ministry of Health. This survey will involve interviews with a number of individual insurance practitioners in order to elicit certain facts which cannot otherwise be obtained, and the Insurance Acts Committee, which has carefully considered the whole matter, is of opinion that insurance practitioners should give all reasonable assistance to regional medical officers who may desire information in this matter. It should be noted that in the fourth paragraph of the letter the Ministry states that no question of disciplinary action can arise on account of the prescribing under discussion.

Fees for Anaesthetics Administered to Insured Persons.

The Insurance Acts Committee has recently had under consideration the circumstances in which an insurance practitioner may claim a fee from the local Practitioners' Fund in respect of an anaesthetic administered to one of his insured patients, and has expressed the following opinions:

(*a*) An anaesthetic fee is payable out of the local Practitioners' Fund whenever an anaesthetic is required for an operation inside the contract requiring the services of two practitioners, no matter by whom the anaesthetic is given, provided the administration of the anaesthetic does not involve the application of special skill or experience of a degree or kind which general practitioners as a class cannot reasonably be expected to possess.

(*b*) If an insurance practitioner gives the anaesthetic, or gives assistance, in connexion with any operation outside the contract, no fee is payable out of the local Practitioners' Fund.

(*c*) If the insurance practitioner himself possesses special skill and experience of a degree or kind which general practitioners as a class cannot reasonably be expected to possess, and performs an operation outside the contract, then he can claim a fee out of the local Practitioners' Fund for the administration of an anaesthetic if he provides a second practitioner to give the anaesthetic, provided the administration of the anaesthetic does not involve the application of special skill or experience of a degree or kind which general practitioners as a class cannot reasonably be expected to possess.

It is possible that there are areas where the above opinions may, to some extent, be considered inequitable. It is suggested that where such is the case it would be open to the Panel Committee to vary the local distribution scheme in accordance with its wishes. Such variation, however, would be subject to the approval of the Insurance Committee and the Ministry.

Insurance Practitioners and "Optical" Benefit.

In a note in this column on April 19th attention was drawn to the form issued by an approved society in connexion with the obtaining by its members of "optical" benefit. The form in question provided for a statement by a medical practitioner certifying that the insured person was suffering from some eye trouble and should consult an optician. The Current Note advised practitioners that, not only were they under no obligation to fill up the form in question, but that the Insurance Acts Committee was strongly of opinion that they should not do so, as the question of "covering" an unqualified practitioner might arise. Representations were made by the Insurance Acts Committee to the Ministry of Health, with the result that the Ministry has stated that it is discussing with the approved society in question the issue of a new form, and has suggested certain amendments to meet the point raised by the Insurance Acts Committee. It is hoped that the new form will soon be available.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL.

Wednesday, June 11th.

A MEETING of the Council of the British Medical Association was held at 429, Strand, W.C., on June 11th. Dr. R. A. Bolam, Chairman of Council, presided, and there were present:

Mr. C. P. Childe (President), Dr. R. Wallace Henry (Chairman of Representative Body), Dr. H. B. Brackenbury (Deputy Chairman of Representative Body), Dr. G. A. Allan, Dr. T. Ridley Bailey, Surgeon Rear-Admiral Sir Percy Bassett-Smith, Dr. H. S. Beadles, Dr. J. W. Bone, Dr. H. C. Bristowe, Dr. H. Guy Dain, Dr. J. S. Darling, the Rt. Hon. Lord Dawson of Penn, Dr. James Don, Dr. C. E. Douglas, Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, Dr. C. E. S. Flemming, Dr. E. R. Fothergill, Dr. T. W. H. Garstang, Dr. T. Duncan Greenlees, Mr. N. Bishop Harman, Mr. F. Strong Heaney, Dr. G. B. Hillman, Dr. David Lawson, Dr. E. K. Le Fleming, Dr. R. W. Leslie, Sir Richard H. Luce, Dr. Arnold Lyndon, Dr. J. McGregor-Robertson, Dr. S. Morton Mackenzie, Dr. O. Marriott, Dr. G. W. Miller, Dr. Hugh Miller, Mr. A. W. Nuthall, Dr. W. Paterson, Dr. R. C. Peacocke, Dr. F. Radcliffe, Lieut.-Colonel J. W. F. Rait, Dr. C. Sanders, Dr. D. A. Sheahan, Mr. H. S. Souttar, Dr. John Stevens, Dr. W. E. Thomas, Dr. G. Clark Trotter, Mr. E. B. Turner, Dr. E. O. Turner.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. Basil Hall (President-Elect), Dr. P. G. Lee, Dr. J. A. Macdonald, and Sir William Macpherson. A letter of sympathy was sent to Sir William Macpherson in his illness, and congratulations were added on the completion of his *Medical History of the War.*

The late Mr. Forbes Fraser.

The Chairman said that it was with the greatest regret that the Council would receive the report of the death of Mr. Forbes Fraser, who would have been welcomed among them a few weeks hence as the new President-Elect. The Council had looked forward to the advantage of close association in its business with a gentleman whose many fine qualities were already known to them by repute, and they grieved deeply over the extraordinary and untimely chance which had taken him from them through a mortal hurt received in the practice of his profession.

Dr. Flemming said that members would have already gathered from the JOURNAL that in the West of England at any rate Mr. Fraser was looked upon not only as an extremely wise counsellor, but as a brother well beloved. He wished particularly to refer to his position as a member of the Association. From the time Mr. Fraser came to Bath he had realized to the full the value and importance of the Association, and had worked to the utmost of his ability to advance its activities both in the direction of science and towards betterment of the position of the profession. He had taken a very active part in the work of his Division and Branch. He had been very sensible of the honour done him in nominating him as President of the Association for 1925-26; his one anxiety was that he might not be able properly to fulfil the duties, but his colleagues who knew him well had no doubt on that score, and they were sure that his energy, his personality, and his great abilities would not only enable him to carry out his duties to the full, but would add lustre to the chair. Mr. Fraser had done much for the advancement of the profession in the part of the country in which he lived. It was difficult as yet to realize the change he had brought about in connexion with the hospitals. He had gathered around him a band of ardent workers, whom he had inspired with his own enthusiasms. Chief amongst such workers was Dr. F. G. Thomson, whom the Bath Division had nominated as Mr. Fraser's successor in the position of President-Elect.

Mr. McAdam Eccles said that he had known Mr. Forbes Fraser from the day he (Mr. Fraser) entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital. In that hospital they always retained a very affectionate regard for the men who had gone down to the provinces to uphold the highest ideals of the profession, and if one man had succeeded in this task better than another it was Forbes Fraser.

The Council, by a standing vote, authorized the Chairman to forward a letter of condolence to Mr. Fraser's family.

The President-Elect.

The Chairman said that it fell to the Council now to take action with regard to the office of President-Elect. The Bath Division on June 2nd nominated for the post Dr. F. G. Thomson, who had previously been appointed to help Mr. Fraser in the preliminary executive work of the Bath meeting.

Dr. Wallace Henry moved that the nomination of Dr. Thomson go forward as a recommendation from the Council to the Representative Meeting, and this was unanimously agreed to.

Elections to Council.

The returns in the election of members of Council by the grouped Branches were reported. In three cases no nominations had been received, and the Council, under the appropriate by-law, decided to fill the vacancies. For the Aberdeen, Dundee, Northern Counties of Scotland, and Perth Branches, Dr. David Lawson of Banchory was appointed, and for the Leinster and Munster Branches Dr. R. C. Peacocke of Dublin and Dr. J. Giusani of Cork respectively. It appeared that the non-receipt of the nomination from Leinster was due to a secretarial misunderstanding, and that Dr. Peacocke had in fact been chosen. It was also reported that the voting by the members of the Canadian and West Indian Branches had resulted in the election of Dr. F. J. Gomez of South Petherton, Somerset, as a member of Council for 1924-27, and that the first election of members of Council by members in the public health service had resulted in the choice of Dr. F. G. Buchan of Willesden and Dr. T. Eustace Hill of Darlington as members for 1924-25.

Other Elections and Appointments.

At its previous meeting the Council appointed a special committee to consider the evidence which might be given by the Association before the Royal Commission upon the working of the National Insurance Acts. The Chairman announced that all the gentlemen invited by the Council had indicated their willingness to serve, with the exception of Lord Dawson, Sir Humphry Rolleston, and Sir Robert Philip, who were unable to do so. It was agreed to nominate in their places Sir Thomas Horder, Professor A. J. Hall, and Dr. E. W. Masterman, the last named as a representative of the Poor Law Medical Service.

It was reported that the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund at its annual meeting had signified its desire to have a representative of the Association on its committee of management, and the Council was asked to nominate such a representative. It was agreed that Dr. C. O. Hawthorne should be invited to act in that capacity. On the motion of Dr. Fothergill it was agreed that Dr. Brackenbury and Mr. E. B. Turner should represent the Association at the forthcoming English-speaking Conference on Infant Welfare. Dr. J. W. Bone was appointed to represent the Association at a conference to be held shortly in London to consider the best means of promoting the adoption of decimal coinage and the metric weights and measures. The Chairman pointed out that the Annual Representative Meeting in 1908 and again in 1917 had approved the adoption of the metric system for prescribing and dispensing.

Memorial to Sir William Macewen.

Dr. Allan, who had been asked by the Chairman to represent the Council at a meeting recently held in Glasgow to discuss proposals for a memorial to Sir William Macewen, said that as the result of the preliminary meeting an executive committee had been appointed of which he and Dr. J. G. McCutcheon, honorary secretary of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch, had been made members. Certain proposals had already been discussed; these included the commissioning of a sculptor to make a bust of Sir William Macewen, which would find

some conspicuous position, probably in the University, and a replica of which would be presented to Lady Macewen, and also the institution of an annual Macewen Lecture and possibly of a prize.

The Chairman said that although, according to its rules, the Association as a body could not contribute to memorial funds, it could use its influence among its members to secure individual contributions, and this influence, of course, in the case of so distinguished a member as the late Sir William Macewen would be exercised to the full.

Resignation of the Treasurer.

It was announced that Dr. G. E. Haslip desired to place before the Council the resignation of his office as Treasurer. He had written to the Chairman of Council as follows:

". . . As you know, it was my intention and my wish to take this step last year when I was acutely ill, and I withheld doing so at the request of you and my other colleagues of the Office Committee, as you all had hoped and wished I should be able to again resume my duties.

"Although I am glad to say I am considerably better and I am making slow, but I understand satisfactory, progress, all my medical advisers tell me that it is most essential I should harbour my strength and only undertake the absolute necessities of my professional work, which advice I must follow under the circumstances. The years of my office have been pleasant years, and although perhaps during the period of the war, after the lamented death of Mr. Elliston, the condition of the office gave continual anxiety, I shall always look back upon the happy relations which have existed between the officers and the officials of the Association. You, personally, I wish to thank most sincerely for the extra work you have accomplished this last year during my absence, and I also take this opportunity to thank all the members of the staff for the loyal manner in which they have assisted in carrying on the work of the Association."

The Chairman said that he had seen Dr. Haslip that morning, and he was glad to say that he was making distinct and satisfactory progress. It was a great grief to all of them that he did not feel able to carry on the work for which he was so eminently fitted and which he had done so satisfactorily for the past eight years. When he was last re-elected for a further period he intimated that he would probably not be able to continue in office for the full term. In ordinary circumstances he would still have one year to serve. His resignation would be received, as it had been tendered, with great reluctance, and he was sure that the Council would wish to express its very great regret that circumstances should have compelled Dr. Haslip to leave the work he loved so much and had done so well. They all hoped that he would be able to come back and help them in some capacity.

A resolution expressing these sentiments was carried unanimously.

Dr. Wallace Henry pointed out that if the resignation was accepted now, instead of at the Annual Representative Meeting, Dr. Haslip would not become, under the by-laws, a member of Council *ex officio* for the coming year. He suggested, therefore, that the resignation be held in abeyance until the Representative Meeting. It was agreed accordingly to place the resignation before the Representative Body, and on the Chairman's suggestion, following the custom in the case of retiring officers who had done the Association great service, it was agreed unanimously to recommend to the Representative Body that Dr. Haslip be made a Vice-President.

The New Headquarters.

Dr. Wallace Henry then took the chair while Dr. Bolam introduced the report of the Finance Committee, which was agreed to, with its recommendations, after a brief discussion. Dr. Bolam then brought forward the report of the Office Committee on the new building of the Association in Tavistock Square. He said that it was hoped within the next day or two to sign contracts with the builders and decorators for the completion of the new house by March 14th, 1925. This would give time for the departments to be transferred and for the house to get into more or less working order by July, for which date, immediately preceding the Annual Representative Meeting at Bath, the formal opening had been provisionally arranged. It was intended to have a ceremonial opening worthy of the occasion. Competitive tenders had been asked for with regard to the bulk of the work, but so far as the equipment of the Council room and library and the decorations of certain staircases were concerned, some suggestions which had been made by Messrs. Hampton had been accepted without competition. The advice of a surveyor had been taken, and he had assured the Committee that the prices were reasonable. The Committee had resolved to accept for the main work the lowest of the six tenders submitted, that of Messrs. Ford and Walton, for £38,227, but the matter had been left over until the Council meeting in order that the Council might have an opportunity of giving or withholding its approval. The terms of contract contained a penalty clause, and the time given for the completion of the contract was nine months. A revised plan of the ornamental gates had been prepared by the architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A., and the speaker considered the revision a great improvement. The cost of this wrought-iron work (£1,575) was included in the principal sum just mentioned. In the first design, presented by the Birmingham Guild, the gates were of curved outline, but Sir Edwin Lutyens had thought it better to keep the straight line. The gates would be some 14 to 16 feet in height, and near the top would be some brief and suitable inscription. He showed a representation of the new design, and said that he thought members would agree that it was excellent. ("Hear, hear.") With regard to the hall, its acoustics at present were all that could be desired, and every endeavour would be made to ensure that these acoustic properties would not be interfered with by the necessary work that had to be done. To that end Sir Edwin Lutyens had suggested that the ends of the hall only—over the gallery and over the dais—should be finished with the barrel type of ceiling, while the main span, right up to the rafters, should be left in its present condition. The girders and tracery would be gilded, and beyond these everything would be painted a dead black. This would give the roof a singular character, quite pleasing in design, and the acoustic properties of the hall would, it was thought, be preserved. In accordance with the Council's request, the question of the sanitary accommodation had been very carefully considered. Dr. C. Sanders, a member of the Council, had spent a great deal of time with the architect in going into the matter, and he reported that the accommodation was very considerably beyond what the present building provided, and in his opinion would be sufficient.

The report of the Office Committee was then approved, the approval carrying with it the acceptance of the tender.

Mr. McAdam Eccles said that he did not think the Council realized how much labour had been expended by Dr. Bolam on this undertaking, and he would like to voice the thanks of the Council to its Chairman. (Applause.)

Dr. Bolam said that it had been a labour of love, and nothing had pleased him more than the support he had received from the enlarged Office Committee, and the way in which the Council itself had dealt with the suggestions laid before it.

Dr. Bolam then returned to the chair.

The Book of Honour.

Mr. F. G. Hallett attended to hand over formally the Book of Honour containing the names of members fallen in the war.

The Chairman, in introducing Mr. Hallett, said that some time ago the Council decided that a Book of Honour should be compiled as a memorial. Mr. Hallett very kindly took in hand the making of the Book. He was a true descendant of those wonderful craftsmen who illuminated manuscripts in the old time, and the book which he had now completed was a worthy memorial of those who had made the great sacrifice. The more formal ceremony in connexion with the Book might be deferred until it could be placed in the position selected for it in the library of the new building, when the memorial gates would also be in place. The work was certainly worthy of any occasion they could arrange, and Mr. Hallett deserved the sincere thanks of the Council and of the Association for this wonderful book. (Applause.)

Mr. Hallett said that when the Committee paid him the compliment of asking him to undertake this work he had great hesitation before accepting, in the first place because he did not think he had the competence or ability, as he had never attempted anything so ambitious before, and, in the second place, because he was a busy man and the hours of his leisure were limited. The Committee, however, asked him to secure such assistance as he needed, and he was fortunately able to enlist the services of Miss Melinda M. Baker, who had collaborated with him in the illuminated testimonial to Sir Clifford Allbutt.[1] Her gold work and script were really of very high artistic merit. The Roll had been bound by Messrs. C. and C. McLeish, whose work, he thought they would all admit when they saw it, was of the highest class of workmanship. The leather was levant morocco, and the design, made by himself in general keeping with the style of illumination, had been carried out by Messrs. McLeish entirely by hand-tooling both on the front and on the back, whilst the inside edges were also hand-tooled. The inside of the Roll was lined with watered silk, and a page of swansdown was inserted to prevent damage to the gilt on the frontispiece. Each page was separately hinged, so that the book could remain open at any page. His idea in designing the Roll had been that it should be of a brilliant description, not sombre, to represent in his view the joyousness of the sacrifice which had been made for King and country. For that reason he had based his floral designs on Italian MSS. of the fifteenth century. The column in the centre of each page also was based on some of the old MSS. He could only add that it had been an intense pleasure to him and a source of great gratification to be allowed the

[1] See BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, July 29th, 1922, p. 173.

privilege of taking part in the making of this memorial and to record the names of those who had been honoured members of the Association, many of them known to him and some of them his personal friends. He expressed the hope that the Council would consider the work as a whole not unworthy of the British Medical Association. (Applause.)

The Chairman, in the name of the Council and of the Association, thanked Mr. Hallett for this his labour of love. In the Office Committee they knew how many hours of his hard-earned leisure Mr. Hallett had put into this Book, and they offered him very grateful thanks for his kindness in undertaking this work, and for the extraordinary skill and care shown in its execution.

The vote of thanks was accorded by acclamation.

The Chairman added that as many members and relatives of late members would like to see the design it had been decided to have photographic reproductions made of each page of the Book for publication later in pamphlet form.

The Work of Local Honorary Secretaries.

Dr. Morton Mackenzie, Chairman of the Organization Committee, reported that the membership of the Association was still growing; it stood that day at 26,887, some 2,000 more than on the corresponding date in 1923. The Committee had had under consideration a suggestion by Dr. Fothergill for recognizing the work done for the Association by the honorary secretaries of Divisions and Branches, whether on relinquishing office or not. It was extremely difficult to make such acknowledgement without invidious distinctions. His Committee felt that the purely local work was best recognized locally, while central work would always at the proper time call for spontaneous recognition. Even local officers on retirement could not be regarded as all on the same basis, for some had done devoted work for the Association over a long period, while others had held office only for one year. At the same time the success of the Association outside headquarters did depend upon the local secretaries, and he thought it desirable to have in the Annual Report of Council the names of retiring secretaries with some general expression of thanks for their services. He deprecated the bestowal of medals as a stereotyped procedure.

Medical Services of the Army and Navy.

Sir Richard Luce, in presenting the report of the Naval and Military Committee, said that suggestions had been made by the Committee for remedying the discontent which at present existed in the R.A.M.C., and the matter of the surgeon commanders affected by the 1919 Regulations had again been brought before the heads of the Royal Naval Medical Service. In neither case had the interviews borne fruit, and therefore it had been decided to approach the Secretary for War and the First Lord of the Admiralty with a view to obtaining some definite announcement in time for the Bradford Meeting. The Council concurred.

The Superior Civil Services in India.

Sir Richard Luce drew attention to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the superior civil services in India, and pointed out that their effect would be to bring about a great change in the state of affairs in the Indian Medical Service, which, indeed, would cease to exist in its present form. His Committee recommended the appointment of a special committee to consider the report of the Commission. Colonel Rait drew attention to the enormous importance of the proposed changes and the need for ensuring that the work which the I.M.S. had done should be continued. The Chairman of Council referred to the various medical services of India, such as railway and municipal medical officers, and also the service of private practitioners, to all of which regard should be paid in this connexion. It was agreed, on the Chairman's suggestion, to add some words to the recommendation so that it became an instruction to appoint a special committee to consider and report to the Council on the report of the Royal Commission and on the relation of the Association to the medical profession in India. Sir Richard Luce said that he was not yet in a position to recommend for appointment to the committee any representatives actually in India. He felt that the Branches in India would like to be consulted before any definite policy was framed. It might be necessary to have a permanent Indian Committee of the Association. Certain names were suggested, and the nucleus of a committee was formed.

Statistics of Insurance Practice.

Dr. Brackenbury, in submitting the report of the Insurance Acts Committee, said that some difficulty had been experienced in obtaining reliable statistics from practitioners as to their income and expenditure, although such statistics were very necessary if the interests of the insurance practitioners in the matter of remuneration were to be safeguarded in the future. A model form of account book had been drawn up, and would be supplied gratuitously on request, on the understanding that the book would be returned for the purposes of the office, the information so given being, of course, treated as strictly confidential. It might be that by the time the Royal Commission was sitting there would be urgent need for such statistics. He added, in reply to a question by Dr. Wallace Henry, that returns from non-insurance practitioners would also be useful, inasmuch as they would show the average proportion of practice expenses to professional gross earnings.

Ophthalmic Benefit under the Insurance Act.

Dr. Wallace Henry presented the report of the Ophthalmic Committee, and stated the results of the joint conference between representatives of the Committee and the Council of British Ophthalmologists. (The report will appear in the Supplementary Report of Council, to be published in next week's SUPPLEMENT.) He added that the question of State recognition of opticians was raised by himself at the conference, but the opinion of the Council of British Ophthalmologists was that as the conference was called for the specific purpose of considering optical benefit—or, to use the expression they preferred, ophthalmic benefit—under the Insurance Act they could take no action in that matter.

The report was approved, and it was resolved to appoint a committee to consider the question of State recognition of opticians, and to invite the Council of British Ophthalmologists to co-operate with the Association and send five representatives.

The Non-Panel Committee.

Dr. Stevens, in presenting the report of the Non-Panel Committee, said that a subcommittee which had been entrusted with the preparation of a report as to what modifications in the Insurance Act would be likely to render available for insured persons the services of practitioners who had not entered into agreement with Insurance Committees had so far arrived at a decision on two principles: (1) the desirability of substituting medical for lay control of the administration of medical benefit; (2) the desirability of separating medical benefit entirely from the other benefits of the Acts. His committee wished these to go forward as recommendations to the Representative Body.

Dr. Brackenbury thought that the Representative Body was not likely to accept the first of these principles. It was not a tenable proposition that the whole of the public money—certainly ten millions a year—should be handed over to the medical profession for its uncontrolled disposal. He regarded such a proposal as syndicalism. With regard to the second principle, the policy was one which had already commended itself to the Insurance Acts Committee, but he was doubtful whether medical benefit could be entirely separated; certain cash benefits under the Act were inevitably linked up with medical certification. On the whole he thought it would be wiser to refer this proposal to the special committee already set up in view of the Royal Commission. Dr. Stevens accepted Dr. Brackenbury's suggestion to leave out the word "entirely." The first principle set out in the report of the committee was negatived by the Council; as to the second principle the Council asked Dr. Stevens to refer it to the special committee.

Medical Services in the Dominions.

On the motion of Dr. Paterson, who introduced the report of the Dominions Committee, it was agreed that steps should be taken by the Association to obtain representation on the advisory committee which is being set up by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to inquire into the potentialities of unified administration of the African services.

The only other matter calling for comment in the report of the Dominions Committee was with regard to a resolution passed by the Assam Branch that a recognized medical transfer agent be appointed in England to give advice to intending applicants for medical work in Assam. Dr. Paterson said that his committee had informed the Branch that the Head Office was in a far better position to act in this matter than any medical agent. A matter under consideration of the Committee was that of the Jamaica, and Windward and Leeward Islands medical services.

Post Office Medical Officers.

Mr. Turner, Chairman of the Medico-Political and Parliamentary Committee, made a statement on the recent reduction of the capitation fee paid to Post Office medical officers and the unyielding attitude of the Postmaster-General in relation thereto. Dr. Morton Mackenzie objected that the matter ought not to be left in its present position. The Postmaster-General had treated his medical officers very badly. He had promised to give them three months' notice of any reduction, but in fact

he waited until just before the end of the first quarter of 1924, and then said that the capitation fee would be reduced by sixpence as from the beginning of that year. Mr. Turner said he was very willing for his committee to take fresh action in the matter. He thought the Post Office medical officers had been treated disgracefully. He agreed to arrange for a meeting as quickly as possible of the Postal Medical Officers Subcommittee, with a view to further expostulation with the Post Office authorities.

Surrey County Council.

Dr. Garstang, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, reported on the action taken with regard to the medical staff of the Surrey County Council. Some discussion took place on the attitude to be adopted by the Association should the policy of differentiation of salary as between men and women medical officers be persisted in. Dr. Garstang said that he was prepared, until the next meeting of Council, to assume responsibility with regard to advertisements which might be offered for the JOURNAL from this body in the event of the continuance of what appeared to be its present policy.

The Scottish Board of Health.

Dr. Douglas, on behalf of the Scottish Committee, reported that a conference had been held with representatives of the Scottish branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health and the Scottish Association of School Medical Officers to consider what steps should be taken with regard to the difficulties experienced in securing recognition in Scotland of the scale of minimum salaries for public health appointments. The principal difficulty arose from the obstruction of the Scottish Board of Health. Cases frequently occurred in which the local authorities were perfectly willing to accept the Association standard, but when the matter came before the Board for promulgation the Board turned it down. It was determined at the conference to ask the Board of Health to receive a deputation, and in the event of an unsuccessful result to take parliamentary and other action.

The only other matter in the report related to the constitution of the Scottish Board of Health, which had been the subject of a deputation to the Secretary for Scotland. The Minister, who promised that the arguments advanced should receive due consideration, took the line that in no circumstances could he carry on without expert medical representation on the Board. This, of course, was all very well so far as the present Secretary was concerned, but sooner or later someone else would occupy his position who might think that he could dispense with medical representation. Up to the present no further parliamentary proceedings had taken place in connexion with the proposal to reduce the membership of the Board and abolish all qualifications for membership.

Advertising of Nursing Homes.

Dr. Lyndon, in the absence of the Chairman of the Central Ethical Committee, submitted a report on the subject of advertising of nursing homes. The proposed recommendations to the Representative Meeting, as originally set out, were criticized on certain grounds by Dr. Fothergill, Dr. Radcliffe, Mr. Bishop Harman, and others. Eventually it was agreed that the following be sent as recommendations to the Representative Meeting:

> That the advertisement in the lay press of nursing homes and kindred institutions which do not provide medical advice or treatment may be for the convenience both of the public and of the medical profession, and to such advertisements no objection need be taken.
>
> That the advertisement in the medical press of institutions professing to provide medical advice and treatment is a practice free from objection, and such advertisements may include the names of the resident and attending medical officers.

A further recommendation stated that the Council recognized the force of custom in the fact that some of the institutions included in the second of these resolutions advertised in the lay press, but that it would prefer to see such advertisements withdrawn, and trusted that the practice would not be extended. It was agreed that this should find a place in the preamble to the recommendations. A fourth recommendation was referred back to the Committee with a view to closer definition.

"The Ministry of Healing."

Dr. Fothergill drew attention to the recent report of the committee appointed in accordance with a resolution of the Lambeth Conference, 1920, on the question of the "ministry of healing," and he proposed that a small committee be formed to include those members who have recently taken a prominent part in the consideration of the question of the ministry of healing, with the following reference:

> "To consider and report in what manner, if any, the British Medical Association, as representative of the medical profession, could prove of the greatest assistance in the future elucidation of the subject of the Ministry of Healing."

He said that following a discussion of this question by the Lambeth Conference, the Metropolitan Counties Branch in 1909, recognizing that the clergy were taking action, urged that the Council should do something to guide the clergy in the matter, but he believed that nothing definite emerged from these and subsequent discussions. In 1920 the matter came again before the Lambeth Conference, which referred it to a special committee under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Oxford. On the appearance of the report of that committee he wrote to Sir Clifford Allbutt, one of its members, who replied that the report was very carefully redrafted after many meetings and was unanimous save that exception was taken on one point by certain of the medical members. That report, however, laid stress upon the need for non-interference with the services of the doctor, and the idea was to go forward very cautiously. At the Canterbury Convocation also the Archbishop had taken a very judicious and statesmanlike line. On the respective functions of the doctor and the clergyman there were some differences of opinion. He believed that some of the Church leaders would welcome a move by the medical profession. The matter was one which affected medicine, and certainly it affected the public. Especially in seaside towns, where invalids congregated, one found a tendency to quackery, due to the wrong application of fundamental truths. In spite of a natural diffidence the medical profession was called upon to define its attitude on this question, and the Association was the obvious body to undertake this task. The committee which he proposed would in the first place get in touch with the clergy and find out whether action by the Association would be welcomed; if it would, the committee would then consider in what direction the Association could assist, and would finally come to the Council with suggestions as to what should be done. Dr. Ridley Bailey seconded the proposal, and it was supported by Dr. Greenlees.

Mr. Bishop Harman believed that this matter bulked much more largely in the public eye than it did in practice, but there were unquestionably many cases which called for medical sympathy. He thought that much good was derived from the ministry of healing provided the systems did not become too materialistic, which was a frequent tendency. Mr. McAdam Eccles thought that if this question were investigated carefully, probably with the assistance of the clergy, a report would be brought forward which would be of immense service. Dr. Douglas said that the subject to his mind was one of profound importance. The reason for the close connexion between medical science and spiritual healing was that in ancient days the priests had the sole direction of medical matters. He considered that some guidance from the Association was called for. He agreed in general with the Archbishop of Canterbury's pronouncement, but one matter on which he thought the Association should take a definite line was with regard to the laying on of hands and unction. These things should be regarded as having a purely spiritual and not a therapeutic significance. They should be regarded in the same way as water in baptism or wine in the Eucharist. This would be a sagacious line for the Council to take, and a line not definitely taken by any other body.

The Chairman of Council recalled the history of this subject in the Association. In April, 1911, it was debated at considerable length in Council, and there was some close voting. Then it was taken to the Representative Meeting, where it was agreed to postpone any expression of opinion pending the receipt of replies from the Divisions. Later it was postponed again owing to the preoccupation of the Divisions with the national insurance scheme then under consideration, and later still it was indefinitely postponed owing to the war.

Dr. Wallace Henry said that he was strongly in favour of the resolution. A repetition of the rather acrimonious discussion that took place previously would be most undesirable, and there was everything to be gained by a discussion of this matter in committee in a scientific atmosphere.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The following names were suggested for the proposed committee: Sir Clifford Allbutt, Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones, Dr. Stanley Bousfield, Dr. Charles Buttar, Mr. McAdam Eccles, Dr. E. R. Fothergill, Mr. Bishop Harman, Dr. Jane Walker, and Dr. H. C. Bristowe. The committee would have power to co-opt.

Other Business.

Among various other items of business the Chairman reported that the special committee set up by the Council to deal with the question of lunacy law and administration, as a result of the first finding in the case of Harnett *v.* Bond and Adam, had not met so far in view of the fact that the legal proceedings in the case were not yet terminated. When the occasion did arise the committee would be called and a report made to the Council.

Association Notices.

NOTICES OF MOTION BY DIVISIONS FOR THE ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETING, BRADFORD, 1924.

Whole-time Public Health M.Os. and Consulting Fees.

BY SCARBOROUGH: That the Recommendation contained in para. 162 of the Annual Report of Council be amended by the addition of the following words: "except in cases of infectious disease."

Public Health Appointments and Binding Resolutions.

By NORTH OF ENGLAND: That in all cases of appointments under the Public Health Service to which objection is taken on account of the remuneration offered being insufficient, a binding resolution should be adopted by the Division or Branch concerned, previous to the appointment being made.

Examination of Applicants for Entrance into Friendly Societies.

By BRIGHTON: That the Recommendation contained in para. 148 of the Annual Report of Council be amended by the deletion of the words "except in the case of the admission of insured persons as such to approved societies."

Indirect Methods of Advertising.

By BRIGHTON: That (with reference to para. 78 of the Annual Report of Council) in view of the fact that there is no distinction made in the dictum of the General Medical Council, nor in the Council's Report, between interprofessional advertising and advertising by the profession, it is considered that the Report of the Central Ethical Committee on Indirect Methods of Advertising should be referred back for amendment, especially as regards paras. 4 and 8, which appear to be mutually contradictory, and para. 12, which is impracticable.

Remuneration of Visiting Medical Staffs.

By BRIGHTON: That the following be adopted in substitution for the fifth Recommendation contained in para. 172 of the Annual Report of Council:

"Where the Board of a Voluntary Hospital accepts payments from individual patients (other than paying patients) not recoverable from third parties which are insufficient to pay more than the total average cost to the hospital, such payments shall not be liable for assessment for visiting medical staff fund purposes; but some form of remuneration should be made to the visiting medical staff from all other such payments by way of an agreed percentage in the case of a public authority, and by an honorarium or otherwise in all other instances."

By BRIGHTON: That the following paragraph be added to the Association's Hospital Policy:

"The concession of a nominal recognition of the services of the visiting medical staff by a percentage or honorarium is made without prejudice, on account of the existing general econom c conditions."

Medical Services of the Territorial Army.

By WEST SUFFOLK: That this Representative Meeting shares the anxiety of the Council in regard to the Medical Services of the Territorial Army, and heartily supports the representations on this subject which are being made to the Army Council.

OFFICIAL DATES.

June 28, Sat.	Supplementary Report of Council appears in SUPPLEMENT.
July 4, Fri.	Amendments and riders for A.R.M. Agenda due at Head Office.
July 18, Fri.	Annual Representative Meeting, Bradford, 10 a.m.
July 18, Fri.	Nominations for election of 12 members of Council by grouped Representatives due (at A.R.M., Bradford) by this date.
July 19, Sat.	Annual Representative Meeting, Bradford.
July 21, Mon.	Council, Bradford.
July 21, Mon.	Annual Representative Meeting, Bradford.
July 22, Tues.	Annual Representative Meeting, Annual General Meeting, and President's Address, Bradford.
July 23, Wed.	Council, Conference of Honorary Secretaries, Meetings of Sections, etc., Bradford.
July 24, Thur.	Meetings of Sections, etc., Bradford.
July 25, Fri.	Meetings of Sections, etc., Bradford.

ALFRED COX, *Medical Secretary.*

BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.—The annual meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch will be held on Wednesday, June 25th, when Dr. H. C. Bristowe will deliver his presidential address on the Psychology of Mental Deficients.

CAMBRIDGE AND HUNTINGDON BRANCH.—The eightieth annual meeting of the Cambridge and Huntingdon Branch will be held at Doddington on Tuesday, June 24th, at 1.15 p.m. Agenda: Balance sheet; election of officers, etc. 1.45, luncheon, by kind invitation of the President-Elect, Dr. C. E. Stephens. 3 p.m., Presidential address: Some Remarks on Old Age, by Dr. Stephens.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: NUNEATON AND TAMWORTH DIVISION.—The annual meeting of the Nuneaton and Tamworth Division will be held at Nuneaton General Hospital on Wednesday, July 2nd, at 3.30 p.m. Business: Election of officers, etc.; Annual Report of Council; and instruction of Representative. It is hoped that all members will make a special effort to attend this meeting and will bring with them the SUPPLEMENTS of May 3rd, 10th, and 17th, and June 28th.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.—The fifty-third annual general meeting of the Border Counties Branch will be held at the County and Station Hotel, Carlisle, on Friday, June 27th, at 3.30 p.m. Agenda: Branch Council report and financial statement; amendment of Branch rules; tea; presidential address by Dr. M. Bryson: Gideon Gray and the new midwifery. The Branch Council will meet at 3 p.m.

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH.—The annual meeting will be held in Powolny's Rooms, King Edward Street, Hull, on Saturday, June 28th, at 1 p.m. The retiring President, Dr. Turton, will take the chair. Agenda: Annual Report of Council; financial statement; election of officers; the President-elect, Mr. Upcott, will read his inaugural address on Fractures. After the meeting luncheon will be served.

EDINBURGH BRANCH.—The annual meeting of the Edinburgh Branch will, as already announced, be held at West Linton on Wednesday, June 25th. Excellent facilities are being provided for the day's enjoyment, and the Branch Council hopes that the attendance of both members and their friends will be large. Members who intend to be present should give early notice to Dr. John Stevens, 78, Polwarth Terrace, Edinburgh.

ESSEX BRANCH.—The annual meeting of the Essex Branch will be held on Friday, June 27th, at the Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, at 2.15 p.m. It will be preceded at 12.45 by a meeting of the Council and at 1.15 by lunch.

KENT BRANCH.—The eleventh annual meeting of the Kent Branch will be held at the Town Hall, Maidstone, on Tuesday, June 24th, at 2.45 p.m. Agenda: Election of officers; report of Branch Council and financial statement; new Organization Rules; votes of thanks to retiring officers; appoint auditor. At 3.15, President's inaugural address: The Medical Service of the Territorial Army. At 4, Visit to East Malling Experimental Research Station (Horticulture), where tea will be provided. The competition for the Tennyson Smith Golf Challenge Cup will take place, and intending competitors are requested to send their names, addresses, and handicaps to Mr. F. T. Travers, F.R.C.S., 5, Ashford Road, Maidstone. At 6.30, Annual Dinner at Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone (tickets 7s. 6d. each; wines and smokes provided by local Division). The President-elect, Colonel C. Pye Oliver, C.M.G., M.D., invites members to luncheon at 1.30 p.m., prior to the meeting, at the Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone.

KENT BRANCH: TUNBRIDGE WELLS DIVISION.—The annual meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Division will be held at the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, on Wednesday, June 25th, at 8.30 p.m. Agenda: Receive result of postal election of officers; elect honorary secretary and representative on Branch Council; annual report and financial statement; discussion on infant welfare and school clinics; consider the Tunbridge Wells Maternity Home scheme; question of retaining fee for doctors engaged to attend maternity cases; extension of the National Insurance Act to dependants; appoint Ethical Committee.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: MID-CHESHIRE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Mid-Cheshire Division will be held in Altrincham Hospital to-day (Friday, June 20th), at 8.30 p.m., when Dr. Geoffrey Evans (St. Bartholomew's Hospital) will deliver a British Medical Association Lecture on the Essential Signs of Arterio-sclerotic Disease, illustrated by lantern slides. Non-members in the Division and members of neighbouring Divisions are invited.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.—The annual general meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch will be held at 429, Strand, W.C., on Friday, June 27th, at 4 p.m. Business: (1) Report of scrutineers on election of officers; (2) Annual Report of Council; (3) Report of Representatives of the Branch on the Central Council; (4) President's address by Dr. Charles Buttar, entitled "Vox et praeterea nihil." It is proposed to present at this meeting parchment certificates to winners of the Association prizes awarded to final-year students for essays on "Three Cases illustrating Different Causes of Dyspnoea."

OXFORD AND READING BRANCH.—The annual golf meeting will be held at Huntercombe on Friday, June 27th. There will be a bogey competition for the Collier Cup, and an Oxford Division *v.* Reading Division foursome match. Members intending to take part in the meeting and to attend lunch at the Links Hotel (price 3s. 6d.) are requested to notify the honorary secretary, Dr. E. W. Squire, 223, King's Road, Reading, by June 25th. The annual Branch clinical meeting will be held in Reading on Wednesday, July 9th.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—The annual meeting of the Staffordshire Branch will be held at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, on Thursday, June 26th, at 4 p.m. Business: Introduction of the new President; report of the Branch Council and financial statement for 1923; election of officers and Ethical Committee, etc.; address by the new President, Dr. J. W. Dawes. Dinner will be served at 6.30 (charge 10s. 6d.).

SUSSEX BRANCH.—The eleventh annual general meeting of the Sussex Branch will be held at the Royal Victoria Hotel, St. Leonards, on June 26th, at 2.15 p.m. Agenda: Election of officers; induction of President; annual report and financial statement; Presidential address, Clinical Research at St. Andrews. It is hoped that as many Sussex members as possible will attend. The President-elect, Mr. David Ligat, F.R.C.S.Eng., will entertain the members attending the meeting at lunch at the Royal Victoria Hotel, St. Leonards, at 1.15 p.m. After the general meeting the Hastings Division invites the Sussex members and their friends to a motor trip, leaving the Royal Victoria Hotel at 2.45, through Winchelsea, Rye, and Hawkhurst, taking Battle Abbey on the home

journey. Tea, provided by members of the Hastings Division, will be served at the Tudor Hall Hotel, Hawkhurst, at 4.30 to members and their friends. Warrior Square Station is the nearest to the hotel. Cars will meet the train leaving Brighton at 11.5 a.m. In order of rotation the annual general meeting in 1925 will be held at Lewes.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: HARROGATE DIVISION.—The Chairman, Dr. Mackay (Knaresborough), invites members and ladies to a social gathering to be held on Tuesday, June 24th, at 4 p.m. (weather permitting); meeting place, the Market Place, Knaresborough.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: HUDDERSFIELD DIVISION.—The annual picnic arranged by the Huddersfield Division will take place on Thursday, June 26th, and has been arranged as follows: The charabanc will leave York Place at 12.45 p.m. for Chatsworth. Time will be allowed for a visit to Chatsworth, and about 4.15 the charabanc will proceed to Haddon Hall and afterwards to Bakewell. Dinner will be at the Castle Hotel, Bakewell, at 6. The party will leave Bakewell at 7.15, and should arrive in Huddersfield about 10. Dr. Smailes, Honley (telephone, Honley 187), is in charge of the arrangements, and members are requested to let him know as soon as possible the number of their party, and whether they wish to drive by charabanc or in their own cars.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: SHEFFIELD DIVISION.—A general meeting of the Sheffield Division will be held at the Church House, St. James Street, Sheffield, to-day (Friday, June 20th), at 8.30 p.m. Agenda: Report of Council (SUPPLEMENT, May 3rd). Instructions to Representatives—the following will introduce the discussion on some important sections of the Report: Medical Ethics, Mr. Caiger; Medico-Political and Parliamentary, Dr. Forbes; National Health Insurance, Dr. Young; Public Health, Dr. Wynne; Hospitals, Dr. Barnes. Proposed alteration of Rule 10, in order to provide for the representation of the Public Health Service on the Executive Committee.

Meetings of Branches and Divisions.

ULSTER BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the Ulster Branch was held in the Royal Victoria Hospital on May 29th, when the President, Dr. CUNINGHAM, was in the chair. The report of the Branch Council, which was adopted, showed a substantial increase in membership, the number of members on April 30th, 1924, being 375, as compared with 330 in April, 1923. During the year three general meetings and five meetings of Council were held. The finances of the Branch are in a sound condition.

The following officers were elected:

President, Professor J. E. MacIlwaine. *Honorary Secretary*, Mr. Malcolm. *Honorary Treasurer*, Dr. Darling. *Representatives on Irish Committee*, Dr. Reid and Dr. Crymble.

On the motion of Dr. DARLING the Honorary Secretary was instructed to make the necessary arrangements for holding a general meeting in Londonderry each year.

Dr. STOREY proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Dr. DARLING and carried with acclamation:

"That the Ulster Branch desires to place on record its high appreciation of the work of the Insurance Acts Committee, and particularly of the long and untiring devotion of its chairman, Dr. H. B. Brackenbury, to the interests of the medical profession, culminating in his eminent services before the Court of Inquiry. That the Ulster Branch is of opinion that it was very largely due to Dr. Brackenbury's grasp of affairs, lucidity in exposition, and skill in debate, that the remuneration of panel practitioners was recently increased by the Ministry of Health."

The Honorary Secretary was directed to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution to Dr. Brackenbury, and also a copy to Dr. Cox, in a covering letter assuring him that the members of the Branch were deeply sensible of his untiring energy and magnificent work as Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association, and took the opportunity of congratulating him on the success that has hitherto crowned his efforts, and at no crisis less marked than when advocating the claims of the profession before the recent Court of Inquiry.

After the business was concluded many valuable demonstrations were given, and the President entertained the members to luncheon in the Medical Institute. Sixty-four members were present and thoroughly enjoyed the President's hospitality. After the toast of the King had been drunk Professor FULLERTON thanked the President.

Clinical Meeting.

Dr. GARDINER ROBB gave a demonstration of the cases of encephalitis lethargica at Purdysburn Fever Hospital to a large number of members; there were about seventy of these patients in the city hospital, presenting all features and varieties, mostly in the acute stage, many of myoclonic type. About 160 cases had been admitted under Dr. Robb at the Union Hospital and at Purdysburn since early in April, but a large number existed, scattered throughout the town, before that date.

The following general cases and specimens were shown:

Dr. MCKISACK: Progressive muscular atrophy, presenting unusual features; encephalitis simulating bulbar paralysis; muscular dystrophy; monarticular osteo-arthritis simulating Charcot's joint.

Dr. CALWELL: A case of lymphatic leukaemia with an enlarged spleen, in a syphilitic, and a case of encephalitis.

Professor MACILWAINE: Some electrocardiograms showing the effects of quinidine on auricular fibrillation; the brain from a case of encephalitis; a case of Friedreich's ataxia.

Dr. T. HOUSTON: Slides showing malaria parasites; Dare's haemoglobinometer; Piney's method of counting red cells.

Dr. RANKIN: Demonstration of diathermy; an ambulatory case of encephalitis and a case of muscular dystrophy.

Dr. BOYD CAMPBELL: Three cases of encephalitis; a case of pernicious anaemia associated with osteo-arthritis; slides showing spirochaetes of syphilis and of Vincent's angina; specimens of hydatid cyst.

Mr. MITCHELL: Three cases of splenic anaemia, two with acholuric jaundice, in whom the spleen had been successfully removed with lasting improvement; spontaneous fracture in a tabetic patient; multiple joint deformities following scarlet fever.

Professor FULLERTON: A patient with spinal caries treated by Albee's operation, in whom the psoas abscess had dried up; cystograms illustrating tumours of the bladder before and after removal; a case of carcinoma of the breast, eighteen years after excision and thirteen years after lymphangioplasty; a piece of wood removed from an appendix after a typical attack of appendicular colic; a patient after partial cystectomy.

Mr. KIRK: A case after excision of the knee-joint; skin graft of head; two cases of fracture dislocation of the spine; the sternalis muscle.

Professor JOHNSTONE: Numerous gynaecological specimens.

Mr. IRWIN: A case of spastic paraplegia in a child of 8 treated by Stoeffel's operation with improvement in powers of walking; a specimen of advanced osteo-arthritis in the knee-joint removed by excision; genu recurvatum treated by arthroplasty; six cases of internal derangement of knee-joint treated by removal of cartilage (some of these patients have since played football); cases of Lane's splinting and wiring of fractures.

Mr. CRYMBLE: A case of ankylosis of the jaw cured by resection of the head and neck of the mandible; congenital bilateral deformity of the shoulder-joint; stereoscopic radiograms of a case of Sprengel's deformity; carcinoma of the pancreas (microscopic section); calcareous deposits in pineal gland (stereoscopic radiograms); patients in whom the stomach had been resected for cancer or ulcer.

Mr. HALL: Orthopaedic specimens and cases.

Dr. C. J. WOODSIDE: Traumatic aneurysm of the thoracic aorta.

Dr. E. ARMSTRONG: Section of a sarcoma of the finger developing after injury and followed by melanoma of the axillary glands.

Mr. H. P. MALCOLM: Tapeworm segments causing a typical attack of appendicitis; perforation and peritonitis following auto-infection of a cyst of the broad ligament.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: WEST BROMWICH DIVISION.

THE third regular meeting for 1924 of the West Bromwich Division was held at Smethwick on June 4th. The Annual Report of Council was examined. The various recommendations were discussed and criticized, and the Representative (Dr. R. W. Stocks) was instructed to act accordingly.

Dr. H. G. DAIN (Birmingham) opened a discussion on contract practice. After reviewing the origin of clubs, based on insurance for the patient and security for the doctor, he held that, if run on proper lines, contract practice was really a desirable form of practice and could be brought to be almost on a level with private practice. The doctors in each district should combine and pool their clubs so as to form in some measure a public medical service. Patients should be given free choice of doctor. This was, he considered, much better for the patients and put the doctors in a better position ethically. With regard to courts and other friendly society clubs, all doctors in a given area should insist on being on a panel of these clubs. The service and rates should be standardized; private clubs run with the aid of collectors paid on commission were a source of danger and led to charges of unprofessional conduct. Dr. Dain stated that when the doctors in any given area had combined in negotiations over contract practice they had never failed to get their own terms. A prolonged discussion followed, and it was agreed to circularize the doctors in West Bromwich and Wednesbury asking for information as to clubs and contract rates. On receipt of the information the Executive Committee will invite the doctors to unite and lay down standard rates which will be enforced as soon as possible.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.

A GENERAL meeting of the Border Counties Branch was held at Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, on May 30th, when Dr. G. B. MURIEL, President, was in the chair. After tea a discussion on the admission of patients to mental hospitals was opened by Dr. C. C. EASTERBROOK, followed by Drs. CROMIE, BRYSON, CRERAR, BRAITHWAITE, and others. On the motion of Dr. MURIEL, seconded by Dr. CRERAR, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Easterbrook for his opening address, and for the hospitality shown to members. Parties were afterwards shown over the various departments of the Institution.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH: DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DIVISION.

THE annual meeting of the Dumfries and Galloway Division was held on May 29th in Castle Douglas Town Hall. Dr. Selby (Portwilliam) was elected chairman, Dr. P. M. Kerr (Dumfries) vice-chairman, Dr. Cromie (Auchencairn) secretary and treasurer, and Dr. Livingston (Dumfries) clinical secretary. Dr. Joseph Hunter's appointment as Representative and Dr. Cromie as Deputy Representative was confirmed. The Division adopted the model organization rules with some modifications to suit the local circumstances. In considering the Annual Report of Council and giving instructions to their Representative thereon, the meeting was unanimously of opinion that in fixing scales of salaries for public services more elasticity should be allowed and more confidence reposed in Divisions, as obviously the conditions were not the same for urban and rural areas. The Division considered that if the present policy was persisted in it must lead to a lowering of the prestige of the British Medical Association.

CAMBRIDGE AND HUNTINGDON BRANCH: ISLE OF ELY DIVISION.

THE annual general meeting of the Isle of Ely Division was held at March on May 20th. The financial statement, showing a balance in hand, was adopted.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Chairman, Dr. C. E. Stephens. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. W. Meikle. *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. A. C. S. Waters. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. C. E. Stephens. *Deputy Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. A. C. S. Waters.

The annual report of the Central Council was considered, and it was decided to instruct the Representative to give general support to the recommendations of Council.

The question of recruiting of members was discussed in connexion with the forthcoming Royal Commission on the National Health Insurance Acts; several members undertook to canvass non-members in their neighbourhood. The opinion was expressed that non-members were hardly playing the game, since they appeared to be content to receive all that was to be obtained by the efforts of the Association without contributing either by moral support or financial help.

DORSET AND WEST HANTS BRANCH.

THE Dorset and West Hants Branch met at the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth, on May 21st. Dr. Baiss (Swanage) was elected Vice-President in the place of Dr. Haig, resigned. The retiring President, Dr. MACCARTHY (Sherborne), introduced his successor, Mr. A. Heygate Vernon, F.R.C.S. (Bournemouth). Previous to the meeting the Bournemouth members entertained the visiting members to a lunch at the Burlington Hotel. Mr. VERNON gave an inaugural address on the future of hospitals, and the status of the honorary medical staff.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: GLASGOW NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

THE annual meeting of the Glasgow North-Western Division was held on May 30th, when the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:

Chairman, Dr. J. McGregor-Robertson. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. R. M. Buchanan. *Secretary*, Mr Matthew White. *Representatives in Representative Body*, Dr. J. McGregor-Robertson and Dr. E. J. Primrose. *Deputy Representatives*, Dr. R. M. Buchanan and Dr. John Ritchie.

The proposed union of the Central and North-Western Divisions was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed that such union was neither necessary nor desirable. It was decided to nominate Dr. J. G. McCutcheon, Dr. David McKail, Dr. John Patrick, and Dr. John Ritchie for election to the Scottish Committee.

In view of the interest shown in the clinical demonstrations held during the past winter it was decided to continue a similar series next winter. The Annual Report of Council was then considered—in particular those sections specially referred to the Divisions. The attention of members was drawn to the testimonial to Dr. Brackenbury, regarding which a letter had been sent to each member by the Branch, and the CHAIRMAN commended the matter to the attention and warm support of those present. The success attending the efforts of the Branch in connexion with newly qualified practitioners was noted.

KENT BRANCH: BROMLEY DIVISION.

THE annual meeting of the Bromley Division was held at the Royal Bell Hotel, Bromley, on May 30th. The following officers were elected for 1924-25:

Chairman, Dr. G. R. Stilwell (Beckenham). *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. C. W. Davis (Sidcup). *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. H. Chisholm Will. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. A. Tennyson Smith. *Deputy Representative*, the Honorary Secretary.

The Annual Report of Council was considered and instructions to the Representative were adopted. The general rules and the ethical rules were considered and adopted. At the close of the meeting members were kindly entertained to tea by Dr. J. H. Yolland.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: CITY DIVISION.

A MEETING of the City Division was held at the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, on May 13th, when Dr. WILLIAM BRANDER read a paper entitled "A critical review of some complicated labours." The paper was extremely instructive, and showed the results of very careful and thorough investigation on the part of the lecturer of the type of cases which cause so much anxiety to the members of the medical profession when encountered in the course of their professional duties. The evening terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: MARYLEBONE DIVISION.

THE annual general meeting of the Marylebone Division was held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on June 11th, when, in the absence of the chairman, Dr. GOODBODY presided. The HONORARY SECRETARY presented the annual report of the Executive Committee, which showed that five general meetings and two Executive Committee meetings had been held during the year.

The following officers were elected for 1924-25:

Chairman, Mr. C. E. Wallis. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. D. Roxburgh. *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. Bishop Harman. *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. Percy Spurgin.

A long discussion took place on the Report of the Central Council. The hospital policy report was explained by Mr. BISHOP HARMAN. The revised organization rules were adopted *en bloc*.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.

THE annual general meeting of the North Middlesex Division was held in the Southgate Council offices on May 28th. After items of routine divisional business the Annual Report of Council was considered and various points discussed.

A letter from Dr. Brackenbury thanking the Division for their resolution at the previous meeting was read and directed to be inserted in the minutes. It was submitted by the Executive Committee that it was advisable that there should be definite representation of public health service on the Executive Committee, and recommending that the divisional rules be altered to allow of one member of the Division holding a whole-time post in the public health service being elected annually at the annual meeting. After discussion it was resolved that steps be taken to give effect to this recommendation.

The following officers were elected for the session 1924-25:

Chairman, Dr. H. Distin. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. J. R. Fuller. *Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. J. R. Richmond Ritchie *Representatives in Representative Body*, Dr. H. B. Brackenbury and Dr. G. Grant Macdonald. *Deputy Representative*, Dr. A. G. Newell.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.

A MEETING of the South Middlesex Division was held at St. John's Hospital, Twickenham, on April 29th.

Dr. Yonge was nominated as one of the representatives on the Joint Cancer Committee.

Dr. G. F. BUCHAN, medical officer of health for the Willesden urban district, read a paper on the evolution of public health. He stated that public health was known in ancient times as personal hygiene, and that Chadwick planted the seeds of public health. In 1875 the most important Public Health Act was passed. Pasteur's discovery of the microbe opened the second chapter of public health. The early years of the present century marked the third chapter by the Midwives Act, Provision of Meals, Notification of Births, Medical Inspection of School Children, Abatement of Nuisances, Control of Infectious Diseases, and numerous other Acts. He stated that much more progress had yet to be made in public health work, and gave a detailed account of the deaths which occurred in 1922. Dr. Buchan considered that there should be more co-ordination between the work of the general practitioner and that of the public health officer. As public health did not only concern the medical profession, he suggested that it would be advantageous to have discussions between local medical officers of health and local advisory councils. The meeting adjourned for tea, after which Dr. LANGDON-DOWN thanked Dr. Buchan for his paper and said that the Division was in agreement with the lines set out by him.

Dr. CAMPS expressed himself in agreement with all that had been said, and stated that in Teddington a primary health centre was being commenced, as advocated in the Dawson scheme. Propaganda was being carried out by a house-to-house visitation. Dr. SKENE asked for particulars of the Teddington scheme, and stated that a Medical Advisory Committee had been formed at Willesden which was recognized by the urban district council.

At the annual meeting held on May 21st, Dr. LANGDON-DOWN gave his report as Representative in the Representative Body, and touched on the various items dealt with. The new offices of the Association were described in detail.

The annual report of the honorary secretary recorded that six ordinary meetings had been held, that the Executive Committee had met once, and that a popular lecture given by Sir Henry Gauvain was a great success, the lecture hall in the Public Library being well filled.

The annual report of the Council was accepted.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Chairman, Dr. G. S. Ewen. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. H. A. Günther. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. T. Ruddock-West. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. R. L. Langdon-Down. *Deputy Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. C. C. Scott.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WILLESDEN DIVISION.

THE annual meeting of the Willesden Division was held at the Willesden General Hospital on May 21st. Dr. AUTY presided, and reviewed the work of the year, explaining that fewer meetings had been held on account of the meetings in connexion with the National Health Insurance, and excessive sickness. The number of members had increased from 67 to 77. On the motion of Dr. SCOTT a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Auty.

The following appointments were made:

Chairman, Dr. W. W. Stocker. *Vice Chairman*, Dr. C. F. T. Scott. *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. W. Paterson. *Clinical Secretary*, Dr. J. W. Brash. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. C. F. T. Scott. *Deputy Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. G. W. R. Skene.

The meeting adopted the recommendation of the Executive Committee to add the following to Rule 10 (vi):

"The Committee shall have power to co-opt persons being ordinary members of the Division, whether holding whole-time posts in the public health service or other persons."

The annual report of the Council was considered and instructions given to the Representative. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to convey the thanks of the Division to the House Committee of the Willesden General Hospital for accommodation, and to the Matron for attending to the catering arrangements and

the comfort of the members generally. A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. S. Coulson for his continued interest and assistance during the year.

MIDLAND BRANCH: CHESTERFIELD DIVISION.

THE annual meeting of the Chesterfield Division was held at the Station Hotel, Chesterfield, on May 30th. The following officers were elected:

Chairman, Dr. T. J. Hollins. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. G. H. Mead. *Honorary Treasurer*, Dr. A. Court. *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. H. W. Pooler. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. R. P. Garrow. *Deputy Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. P. MacGinnis

The report of the Executive Committee of the Division, which showed that work of considerable importance had been accomplished on behalf of the members, was received and approved. The Annual Report of Council was considered and the Representative instructed thereon.

MUNSTER BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the Munster Branch was held on May 24th, when Dr. E. MURPHY was in the chair. Dr. J. Giusani (Cork) was nominated for election to the Council of the British Medical Association, for 1924-5.

The following officers were elected:

President, Dr. Morrissey *Vice-President*, Dr W. Rahilly. *Retiring President*, Dr D. J. O'Mahony. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. O'Meara (Skibbereen). *Deputy Representative*, Dr. Devane. *Representative on Irish Committee*, Dr. Corby. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. Philip G. Lee.

After a discussion upon the present position of the Branch, and what might be done to arouse the interest and co-operation of members in the Munster area, the meeting adjourned.

NEW ZEALAND BRANCH: HAWKES BAY DIVISION.

THE annual meeting and dinner of the Hawkes Bay Division was held on April 2nd. There was a fair attendance of members. The retiring secretary, Dr. Mercer, was thanked for his services to the Division for the last three years. After the meeting a very excellent dinner was served in the H.B. Club, to which the customary number—13—sat down. A very enjoyable evening was spent, and the retiring secretary was presented with a case of pipes "to console him on his forthcoming voyage to Blighty."

NORFOLK BRANCH: EAST NORFOLK DIVISION.

A MEETING of the East Norfolk Division was held at the Medical Library, Norwich, on May 21st, when Dr. D. TURNER BELDING was in the chair.

The following officers were elected:

Chairman, Dr. D. Turner Belding. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. C. A. Owens. *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. H. D. Woodroffe. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. H. D. Woodroffe. *Deputy Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. J. K. Howlett.

The report of the subcommittee appointed to inquire into the "school doctor and hospital abuse" was presented, and it was agreed that the Division should endeavour to form a panel of practitioners in the county of Norfolk willing to do tonsils and adenoid operations and refractions for school children. The secretary was instructed to circularize practitioners.

A letter from the Assistant Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association, suggesting that it might be desirable to amalgamate the East Norfolk and Norwich Divisions, was considered, and the meeting unanimously decided that such amalgamation was not in their interest. The Annual Report of the Council was then considered.

NORTH LANCASHIRE AND SOUTH WESTMORLAND BRANCH: FURNESS DIVISION.

THE annual meeting of the Furness Division was held at the Masonic Hall, Barrow, on May 28th. The following officers were elected:

Chairman, Dr. Fawcitt. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. Alexander. *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. Wilson. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. Livingston.

It was decided to ask the Central Council of the Association for individual representation on the Representative Body in respect of future years.

The report of the conference with the Society of Medical Officers of Health, together with the question of municipal clinics and of notification of births, was referred to a joint meeting of the local branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health and of the Division. The Annual Report of the Council was considered and the Representative instructed. The meeting also had before it the annual report of the Executive Committee for 1923-24, which showed that six meetings had been held during the year and that a considerable amount of useful work had been done on behalf of the members of the Division.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: PORTSMOUTH DIVISION.

AT the meeting of the Portsmouth Division held on June 5th the following officers were elected:

Chairman, Dr. Montague Way. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. C. Lamplough. *Honorary Medico-Political Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. E. J Davis Taylor. *Clinical Secretary*, Mr. C. P. Childe. *Representatives in Representative Body*, Dr. Lockhart Stephens, C.B.E., and Dr. D. McAskie.

At the end of the business meeting Dr. J. D. BARRIS, assistant accoucheur to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, gave an interesting lecture on some difficulties in midwifery practice, which was much appreciated.

SURREY BRANCH: GUILDFORD DIVISION.

THE annual meeting of the Guildford Division was held at the Royal Surrey County Hospital on June 5th. Votes of sympathy were adopted to the relatives of the late Dr. F. Stroyan (Aldershot), an associate member of the Division, and of Dr. Raper (Godalming), a member of the Division.

The following officers were elected:

Chairman, Dr. Cecil P. Lankester. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. J. K. Willis. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. Arnold Lyndon. *Joint Honorary Secretary*, Dr. F. T. Hollway Davies.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Hope Walker for his great services to the Association during the past thirty years, during which time he had continuously held office in one form or another. The Representative was instructed, and three resolutions for the Annual Representative Meeeting were adopted. Dr. F. E. Pearse, the retiring chairman, and Dr. A. M. Mitchell, who was not seeking re-election to the committee, were heartily thanked for their services.

SUSSEX BRANCH: HASTINGS DIVISION.

THE annual meeting of the Hastings Division was held at the Eversfield Hotel, St. Leonards, on May 29th, when Dr. HOWE was in the chair. The annual report and financial statement were read. The report stated that during the year nine Division meetings were held, with an average attendance of eighteen. Forty-two members had attended at least one meeting, and the Executive Committee had met seven times, with an average attendance of nine. The membership of the Division had increased from 65 to 75. Papers had been read by Dr. Clive Riviere (British Medical Association Lecture), Dr. McDowall (Ticehurst), Dr. Hebert (St. Thomas's Hospital), and Dr. Bruce (M.O.H.). Dr. Greenlees, Dr. Conwy Morgan, and Dr. Overend had given an interesting demonstration of x-ray lantern slides illustrating abdominal and thoracic lesions. The annual dinner on May 1st was a great success. A golf competition open to the Division was held, and prizes generously presented by Dr. Howe were won by Drs. Cutler, Reed, and Bruce.

The following officers were elected:

Chairman, Dr. Conwy Morgan. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. Howe. *Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. Charnock Smith (re-elected). *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. Thomas Reed. *Deputy Representative*, Dr. Cutler.

Mr. R. P. ROWLANDS, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., surgeon to Guy's Hospital, gave a British Medical Association Lecture on mistakes and how to avoid them, which was greatly appreciated.

National Insurance.

INVESTIGATION OF EXCESSIVE PRESCRIBING.

THE following communication, dated May 27th, 1924, has been received from the Ministry of Health:

"I am directed by the Minister of Health to bring to the notice of the Insurance Acts Committee certain matters in connexion with the investigation of insurance prescribing now being undertaken, as described in the circular letter to Panel Committees of February 29th, of which your Committee has been furnished with a copy.

"In that letter attention was drawn to the considerable and continuous rise, year by year, which has been observed in the cost of drugs and appliances supplied to insured persons since the abolition, in 1920, of the arrangement known as the 'floating sixpence,' and to the fact that, when full allowance had been made for all known unavoidable causes, including increased use of certain expensive remedies and variations in amount and character of prevalent sickness, there remained a substantial margin of increase at present unexplained. Reference was also made to the marked differences observed in respect of cost between areas in which relevant conditions appeared to be fairly comparable. The extent of such divergences is shown by the tables that are appended to this letter.

"In these circumstances it was decided, as the Panel Committees were informed, that before any action was taken in any part of the country of the kind contemplated in Article 37 of the present Regulations, the Regional Staff of the Ministry should carry out a careful survey, conducted on uniform lines in every area, in order to obtain a comprehensive view of the facts in the country as a whole. An essential element of such a survey must obviously be a series of interviews between officers of the Ministry and practitioners whose prescribing exhibits peculiarities that appear to merit investigation, in order that the information which the practitioner alone can give as to the causes of such peculiarities may be obtained. The value in this respect of such interviews would, it was considered, be enhanced by the fact that no question could arise of possible disciplinary action on account of the prescribing under discussion, and the practitioner would not feel himself to be under the necessity of adopting a defensive attitude. Moreover, all the evidence of past inquiries by Panel Committees, and investigations of cases referred to the Insurance Commissioner and Ministry on appeal, tends to the conclusion that actual extravagance is due in the great majority of cases

to simple inattention to consideration of reasonable economy or lack of appreciation of the ways in which this may be secured without detriment to patients. The interviews, therefore, with practitioners the exceptional cost of whose prescribing is due to such causes may be expected to have a valuable effect in drawing their attention to the matter, and inducing a greater care in future.

"The success of this effort must, however, obviously depend to a very considerable extent on the attitude of insurance practitioners themselves, and of the Panel Committees, and the chief purpose of this communication is to express the hope that the Insurance Acts Committee will exercise their influence in every way open to them, not only to promote the success of the present survey, but also to impress on insurance practitioners generally the great importance, in the interest both of insured persons and of practitioners themselves, of due regard to economy in prescribing.

"The Minister is most desirous that, as stated in the letter to Panel Committees, 'all drugs and appliances should be made available to insured persons, which on a liberal view may be considered to be reasonably necessary for the efficient treatment of sick persons, and that full scope should be afforded for the exercise by practitioners of proper independence of judgement in the treatment of their patients.' He would not think it right that any cheeseparing economy should be practised in this connexion, or that practitioners should be pressed to adopt any stereotyped methods of prescribing. But, on the other hand, he must secure by every means open to him that the funds available for providing benefits for insured persons shall not be impoverished by wasteful expenditure on drugs and appliances, particularly that which results from mere inattention in prescribing to considerations of cost.

"The present position, in view of the steady rise in cost, to which reference has already been made, can only be regarded with grave apprehension. The financial provision made for defraying the cost of drugs and appliances in connexion with the bill now before Parliament exceeds what past experience would have indicated as really necessary. If, however, the rate of increase observed in recent years were continued, a deficit must result which could only be made good by measures that could not be justified unless it were clearly demonstrated that increased financial provision for this purpose was really requisite in the interest of insured persons. Failing such demonstration, it might become necessary to consider the readoption of some safeguard in the nature of an automatic check.

"Looking at the past attitude of the Insurance Acts Committee and of the Conference of Panel Committees, the Minister has no doubt of their concurrence in his views as to the propriety and desirability of a due observance by practitioners of reasonable economy in prescribing. He believes that they will agree also that he is entitled to rely upon the active goodwill and cordial co-operation of the medical profession in action taken to secure such economy. Clearly, however, in view of communications received since the issue of the letter to Panel Committees of February 29th, a certain amount of misunderstanding exists which may, if not removed, diminish the prospects of success in the task now being undertaken. He trusts, therefore, that the Insurance Acts Committee will do what lies in their power to remove such misapprehensions, and to satisfy any doubtful Panel Committees and practitioners that this action is calculated to be beneficial to the interests of insurance practitioners as a body, as well as being absolutely necessary, for the reasons already explained, for the protection of the interest of insured persons."

Statistics are attached in regard to the cost of drugs in the various Insurance Committee areas, arranged in order of cost. It is impossible to explain these by reference to the industrial character, etc., of the various boroughs and counties, as areas which are apparently industrially similar show wide divergencies in cost. The following are some striking examples:

Industrial Boroughs.

	s. d.		s. d.
Salford	3 1¾	Bradford	1 9
Oldham	2 11	St. Helens	1 9
Manchester	2 8	Sheffield	1 8¾
Leeds	2 8	Middlesbrough	1 4½

Seaside Boroughs.

Brighton	2 11¼	Southport	1 9½
Hastings	2 4¾	Blackpool	1 7
Bournemouth	2 2½	Wallasey	1 4
Eastbourne	2 1¾		

Rural Counties.

Devon	3 0	Hampshire	1 10½
Worcestershire	2 8	Soke of Peterborough	1 9¼
Cornwall	2 7½	Yorkshire, East Riding	1 9½
Norfolk	2 5	Northampton	1 7¼
East Sussex	2 5½	Yorkshire, North Riding	1 6
Berkshire	1 11		

Industrial Counties.

Yorkshire, West Riding	2 5½	Durham	1 8
Lancashire	2 2	Nottinghamshire	1 7¾

Small Boroughs.

	s. d.		s. d.
Derby	2 6½	York	1 7¾
Exeter	2 5½	Lincoln	1 6½
Reading	2 5	Canterbury	1 5¾
Ipswich	1 8	Grimsby	1 3¾

Taking the areas for the Black Country, we have the following results:

Walsall	2 8½	Wolverhampton	2 1½
Birmingham	2 5	Staffordshire	2 0
Smethwick	2 5	Stoke-on-Trent	1 11¾
West Bromwich	2 3¾	Dudley	1 7½

The figures as to frequency show equally striking differences between areas which are apparently similar in character:

Industrial Boroughs.

Salford	4.2	Bradford	2.5
Oldham	3.7	St. Helens	2.5
Bristol	3.7	Barnsley	2.4
Leeds	3.1	Middlesbrough	2.05
Sheffield	2.7		

Seaside Boroughs.

Brighton	3.75	Southport	2.4
Hastings	3.05	Blackpool	2.2

Rural Counties.

Devon	3.8	Cumberland	2.5
Worcestershire	3.5	Berkshire	2.45
Cornwall	3.3	Hampshire	2.4
West Suffolk	3.3	Yorks, East Riding	2.3
Bedfordshire	3.3	Herefordshire	2.5

Industrial Counties.

Yorks, West Riding	3.3	Durham	2.4
Lancashire	2.9	Nottinghamshire	2.6

Small Boroughs.

Walsall	3.6	Lincoln	2.3
Derby	3.3	Canterbury	2.25
Exeter	3.3	Carlisle	2.0
Reading	3.4	Grimsby	1.9
Southend-on-Sea	2.7		

Taking the Lancashire boroughs separately we get the following figures as to frequency and total cost:

Name of Borough.	*Frequency.*	*Cost.* s. d.	*Name of Borough.*	*Frequency.*	*Cost.* s. d.
Salford	4.2	3 1¾	Bury	2.9	2 1½
Oldham	3.7	2 11	Burnley	2.9	2 1
Manchester	3.6	2 8	Wigan	3.0	2 1
Bolton	3.3	2 4¾	Warrington	3.1	2 0¾
Preston	3.45	2 3	Southport	2.4	1 9½
Blackburn	3.1	2 2¾	St. Helens	2.5	1 9
Rochdale	2.9	2 2¾	Bootle	2.5	1 8
Liverpool	3.1	2 2½	Blackpool	2.2	1 7
Barrow-in-Furness	3.2	2 2			

LONDON PANEL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the London Panel Committee was held on May 27th, with Dr. H. J. CARDALE in the chair. Dr. J. E. STRATTON (representative of the Committee on the Medical Service Subcommittee) reported several cases which had been before the subcommittee during the month. In one case a patient had applied to an insurance practitioner for treatment, but, the practitioner's list being full, he had advised her to go to another doctor. She did so, but the other doctor was not on the panel, and thereby the patient incurred expense. Dr. Stratton pointed out that practitioners had to realize that under the present regulations, if they did not want to accept a patient applying for treatment, they must nevertheless give such treatment in the first instance. There had also been one or two cases before the subcommittee in which doctors had refused to give certificates to insured persons. The one upon which a decision had been arrived at went in favour of the doctor, the subcommittee regarding it as absolutely wrong to insist on a certificate where no incapacity existed, because that entailed an undue claim on an approved society.

It was reported that Dr. Farman, secretary of the Panel Committee, who has been in ill health for some time, had had a somewhat serious relapse, and it was agreed that he should be granted further leave of absence, Dr. Batteson continuing to act temporarily as secretary.

Alleged Disability of a Practitioner.—Discussion took place on a matter arising out of a case in which the Insurance Committee had taken action under Clause 4 (4) of the terms of service and had referred the matter to the Panel Committee for its opinion. This clause lays it down that when the Insurance Committee, after consultation with the Panel Committee, is satisfied that owing to the continued absence or bodily or mental disability of an insurance practitioner his obligations under the terms of service are not being adequately carried out, it may, with the consent of the Minister, give notice to the insured persons on his list that the practitioner is no longer in a position to carry out his obligations. The Insurance Committee had come to the conclusion that a practitioner who had sustained a cerebral haemorrhage (cortical) should be dealt with under this clause. The Panel Committee, on the recommendation of a subcommittee, decided to secure a report by a neurologist, on payment of a sum not exceeding five guineas, on the practitioner's present condition and his probable capacity for work in the future. The Panel Committee was of opinion that a report from a neurologist would bear much more weight than a certificate from the practitioner's own doctor.

Correspondence.

Free Choice of Doctor for the Destitute Patient.

SIR,—The letter of Dr. Renton (SUPPLEMENT, June 7th, p. 279) reminds me that when a member of the Chorlton (Manchester) Board of Guardians, I proposed, in 1913, a resolution "for free choice of doctor for Poor Law patients and for all ratepayers free public vaccination by the doctor of their choice." This was passed unanimously and forwarded to the Local Government Board. Many Boards of Guardians sent resolutions at the time agreeing with this one passed by my board.—I am, etc.,

Manchester, June 7th. F. B. HARGREAVES.

WITHDRAWAL OF AUTHORIZATION UNDER DANGEROUS DRUGS ACTS, 1920 AND 1923.

THE Home Secretary gives notice that he has withdrawn from Dr. Charles Henry James Robinson, lately of Southsea and now of Bosham, Sussex, the authorizations granted by the Regulations made under the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1920, to duly qualified medical practitioners to be in possession of and supply raw opium and the drugs to which Part III of the said Act applies. Any person supplying Dr. Robinson with raw opium or any of the drugs to which Part III of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1920, applies will be committing an offence against the Acts.

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

SURGEON REAR-ADMIRAL SIR A. REGINALD BANKART, K.C.V.O., K.H.P., has been placed on the retired list at his own request in order to facilitate the promotion of junior officers.

Surgeon Captain D. W. Hewitt, C.B., C.M.G., has been promoted to the rank of Surgeon Rear-Admiral.

Surgeon Commander J. Thornhill is placed on the retired list with the rank of Surgeon Captain.

Surgeon Commanders G. Nunn, O.B.E., to the *President* for hospital course; R. H. St. B. E. Hughes to the *Royal Sovereign*.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander F. L. H. MacDowel to the *President* for hospital course.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commanders C. O'B. Ryan and E. F. Murray transferred to the Tyne Division.

Surgeon Lieutenant R. Hall is transferred to the Ulster Division List.

Surgeon Lieutenant G. B. D. Gray to the *Victory* for Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, additional for fourteen days' training.

Probationary Surgeon Sublieutenants L. F. Spero to the *Argus* for training; H. Nichol and R. Wear to the *Royal Sovereign* for twenty-eight days' training.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Temporary Major S. L. Hinde relinquishes his commission and retains the rank of Major.

Captain G. Fleming retires, receiving a gratuity, May 16th, 1924. (Substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, May 13th, 1924.)

Captain A. K. Forbes, M.C., retires, receiving a gratuity.

Captain E. Phillips, D.S.O., M.C., is granted the temporary rank of Major from November 4th, 1919, to March 30th, 1923. (Substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, April 20th, 1922.)

Lieutenant L. F. O'Shaughnessy resigns his commission.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE.

Squadron Leader H. B. Porteous to R.A.F. Depot.

R. T. F. Grace, A. Dickson, and A. A. Townsend are granted short-service commissions as Flying Officers.

F. S. S. Whiter (temporary Lieutenant, Dental Surgeon, General List, Army) is granted a temporary commission as a Flying Officer on attachment to the R.A.F.; he will continue to receive emoluments from army funds.

Flying Officers F. W. G. Smith to R.A.F. Depot; A. A. Townsend to Research Laboratory and Medical Officers' School of Instruction, Hampstead, for short course.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Gunter, D.S.O., having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers.

Captain H. A. Harbison, M.C., ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of physical unfitness.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

The services of Lieut.-Colonel G. D. Franklin, O.B.E., are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health, and Lands (April 22nd, 1924).

The services of Captain R. H. Malone are placed at the disposal of the Government of Bombay for employment as Assistant Director, Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory (April 15th, 1924).

Captain to be Major: H. K. Rowntree, M.C.

The promotion to his present rank of Major R. C. Clifford, D.S.O., M.C., is antedated from July 30th, 1922, to January 30th, 1922.

To be Lieutenant: J. F. Shepherd.

The following officers have retired: Major P. J. Veale (on account of ill health); Major H. Falk.

Lieut.-Colonel C. B. McConaghy is posted as Administrative Medical Officer in Central India and Residency Surgeon, Indore, with effect from May 2nd.

The services of Lieut.-Colonel G. D. Franklin, O.B.E., are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, with effect from April 22nd.

The services of Major S. G. S. Haughton are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab, with effect from April 10th.

Captain J. J. Rooney, Senior Medical Officer, Persian Gulf Ports, Bushire, is appointed to officiate as Residency Surgeon, Bushire, in addition to his own duties, with effect from April 24th.

Lieut.-Colonel S. Hunt is posted as Civil Surgeon, Ajmere, and Chief Medical Officer in Rajputana, with effect from May 9th.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

C. R. Dudgeon (Major R.A.R. of Off.) to be Captain, with precedence from August 10th, 1918.

Lieutenant C. S. Atkin to be Captain.

Supernumerary for Service with O.T.C.—Captain (Brevet Major) J. B. Orr, M.C., from General List, to be Captain (Brevet Major) and to command Infantry Unit, Aberdeen University Contingent O.T.C.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Captain W. S. Forbes to resign his commission and to retain the rank of Captain.

COLONIAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

The following appointments are announced: Drs. W. G. Boase, Deputy Surgeon-General, British Guiana; R. Bury, Principal M.O., Nyasaland; W. Milne-Tough, Senior M.O., Nyasaland; A. W. Lewis, M.O., West African Medical Staff, Sierra Leone; H. L. Mooney, M.O., Gold Coast; D. Alexander, C.M.G., Director of the Medical and Sanitary Service, Nigeria; D. G. A. Don, M.O., Nigeria; C. M. Austin, M.O. (on probation), Trinidad; W. K. Carew, D.M.O., Savusavu, Fiji; F. V. Small, M.O., Uganda; F. P. Freeman, D.M.O., Mbarara, Uganda.

Drs. E. J. Porteous and G. Wilson have been promoted to Senior M.O., Nigeria.

Drs. E. A. Neaf and D. C. Ogilvie have been confirmed in their appointments as D.M.O., Fiji.

VACANCIES.

BAHAMAS.—Bacteriologist and Assistant Medical Officer of Health. Salary £600 per annum.

BESFORD COURT MENTAL WELFARE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Worcestershire.—Medical Officer for holiday camp on Caldey Island.

BLOOMSBURY DISPENSARY.—Physician. Honorarium 100 guineas.

BRIGHTON: SUSSEX MATERNITY AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.—Honorary Surgeon.

CENTRAL LONDON THROAT, NOSE, AND EAR HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.—Second Resident House-Surgeon (male). Remuneration at the rate of £75 per annum.

DUDLEY: GUEST HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon (male). Salary £200 per annum.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Shadwell, E.1.—House-Surgeon (male). Salary at the rate of £125 per annum.

EDINBURGH: ROYAL EDINBURGH HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—Four Honorary Resident Medical Officers.

EXETER: ROYAL DEVON AND EXETER HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £150 per annum.

FRIENDS' COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL SERVICE.—(1) Doctor experienced in Malaria for Refugees in Macedonian Villages. (2) Assistant.

GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL, York Road, S.E.1.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.—Senior Medical Officer. Salary £650 per annum, rising to £750.

HONG-KONG GOVERNMENT.—Two Medical Officers and one Assistant Port Health Officer. Salary £600 per annum, rising to £1,000.

KIDDERMINSTER INFIRMARY AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon (male). Salary £150 per annum.

KING EDWARD VII HOSPITAL, Windsor.—(1) Assistant Physician. (2) Assistant Surgeon. (3) Clinical Assistant to Ear, Nose, and Throat Department. (4) Anaesthetist.

KING EDWARD VII WELSH NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.—Junior Assistant Resident Medical Officer (male) at the South Wales Sanatorium, near Talgarth. Salary £200 per annum.

LIVERPOOL: ROYAL SOUTHERN HOSPITAL.—(1) Honorary Assistant Physician. (2) Honorary Assistant Surgeon.

LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL, Hampstead Road, N.W.1.—House-Physician. Honorarium at the rate of £120 annum.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—External Examiners for Medical Degrees.

MANCHESTER: ST. MARY'S HOSPITALS.—(1) Two House-Surgeons for the Whitworth Street West Hospital. (2) One House-Surgeon for the High Street Hospital. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum each.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC, Queen Square, W.C.1.—(1) Assistant Pathologist. (2) Resident Medical Officer. Salary £250 and £200 per annum respectively.

PUTNEY HOSPITAL, S.W.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary £150 per annum.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL, Marylebone Road, N.W.1.—(1) Two Assistant Resident Medical Officers. (2) Senior Resident Medical Officer. Salary at the rate of £80 and £100 per annum.

READING: ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL.—Third House-Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £150 per annum.

ROCHDALE INFIRMARY.—Medical Officer in charge of X-Ray and Electro-therapeutic Department.

ROYAL CHEST HOSPITAL, City Road, E.C.—Physician with charge of Out-patients.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE SKIN, Leicester Square, W.C.2.—Pathologist. Honorarium £100 per annum.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, Plaistow, E.13.—Clinical Assistant in the Medical Out-patient Department.

ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL FOR STONE, Etc., Henrietta Street, W.C.2.—Clinical Assistants in the Out-patient Department.

SUNDERLAND: CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.—Junior Resident Medical Officer (female). Salary £100 per annum.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, W.C.1.—(1) Registrar at the Royal Ear Hospital, Soho. Honorarium at the rate of £50 per annum. (2) Honorary Anaesthetist. (3) Assistant to the Venereal Disease Department. Salary £250 per annum.

WEST HAM MENTAL HOSPITAL, Goodmayes.—Third Junior Assistant Medical Officer (unmarried, male). Salary commencing £300 per annum.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith Road, W.6.—Assistant Anaesthetist.

WILTS COUNTY COUNCIL.—Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Inspector. Salary £600 per annum.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE HOSPITAL.—Resident Surgical Officer. Salary £250 per annum.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The Chief Inspector of Factories announces the following vacant appointments: Portsoy (Banffshire), Bo'ness (Linlithgowshire), Portsmouth (Hampshire), Handsworth (Yorks, West Riding).

This list of vacancies is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found. To ensure notice in this column advertisements must be received not later than the first post on Tuesday morning.

APPOINTMENTS.

BROWN, F. W. Campbell, M.D.Aberd., Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, Heywood, vice W. Alexander, M.B., Ch.B.Aberd., resigned.

ROBINSON, A. Leyland, M.D., F.R.C.S., Gynaecologist, Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool.

RUSSELL, John I., M.B., Ch.B.Glas., D.P.M.Leeds, Medical Superintendent, North Riding Mental Hospital, York, vice A. I. Eades, L.R.C.P. and S.I.

TAYLOR, H., M.B., B.S.Lond., Assistant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool.

JESSOP HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Sheffield.—*Honorary Physiologist:* Professor J. B. Leathes, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.S. *Honorary Assistant Surgeon:* J. Eric Stacey, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—R. J. Dyson, M.B., Ch.B.Leeds, for the Pickering District, co. York; J. W. C. Fairweather, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., for the Fordoun District, co. Kincardine.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—Tues. and Thurs., 5 p.m., Croonian Lectures by Sir Leonard Rogers, C.I.E.: Researches on Leprosy and their bearing on the Treatment of Tuberculosis.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—Tues., 9 p.m., *Social Evening* to welcome medical men from overseas; music, refreshments, and smoking. 9.45 p.m., Address by the President, Sir William Hale-White: The Story of Say "Ninety-nine." *Section of Odontology:* Mon., 8 p.m., Mr. I. S. Spain and Mr. F. N. Doubleday: Ultra-violet Radiations in Dentistry; Professor A. Hopewell-Smith: The Non-innervation of Dentine (illustrated). The sections under microscopes illustrating this paper will be in position by 7.30 p.m. *Section of Urology:* Thurs., 8.30 p.m., Discussion: Polycystic Disease of the Kidney; to be opened by Sir Thomas Horder and Sir Bernard Spilsbury. Paper by Dr. Parkes Weber: Lipoid Speckling of the Renal Cortex—the so-called Myelin Kidney. *Section of Laryngology and Otology:* Combined Summer Meeting, Thurs., Fri., and Sat. *Section of Study of Disease in Children:* Provincial Meeting at Liverpool, Fri. and Sat.

SOCIETY OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF TUBERCULOSIS INSTITUTIONS.—Special meeting at King George V Sanatorium, Godalming, Saturday.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.—*Chelsea Hospital:* Daily, Operations, etc. Mon., 2 p.m., Backward Displacement. Wed., 2 p.m., Vaginal Discharge. Thurs., 9.30 a.m., Sterility. Fri., 2 p.m., Cervical Fibroids. *Children's Clinic:* Mon., 2 p.m., Demonstration of Cases; 4 p.m., Biochemical Investigation of Gastro-intestinal Diseases. Wed., 2.15 p.m., at Crossroads Club, 88, Alexandra Road, St. John's Wood, Demonstration of Baby Cases; 3.30 p.m., Nutritional Disturbances of Infancy. Thurs., 10 a.m., at Children's Clinic, Demonstration of Cases; 11.30 a.m., Birth Palsies and their Treatment. *London School of Tropical Medicine:* Tues. and Thurs., 2 p.m., Demonstrations on Diseases of Tropical Countries. *Royal Northern Hospital,* in conjunction with the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road: Intensive Course in Medicine and Surgery. *St. John's Hospital:* Clinical Demonstrations daily until Thursday (inclusive). Tues., 5 p.m., Eczemas of Infants and Children. Thurs., 5 p.m., Psoriasis. *St. Peter's Hospital for Stone:* Clinical Work and Lectures daily.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.—Thurs., 4 p.m., Dr. Hutchison: Affections of the Liver in Children.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC, Queen Square, W.C.1.—Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 2 p.m., Out-patient Clinics. Mon., 12 noon, Anatomy and Physiology of Nervous System; 3.30 p.m., Combined Degeneration of Spinal Cord. Tues., 12 noon, Cellular Reaction in Nervous System; 3.30 p.m., Clinical Lecture. Thurs, 3.30 p.m., Syphilis of Nervous System. Fri., 3.30 p.m., Tumours of Ponto-cerebellar Angle.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON POST-GRADUATE ASSOCIATION, St. James's Hospital, Ouseley Road, Balham, S.W.12.—Wed., 4 p.m., The Making of a *Post-Mortem* Examination.

TAVISTOCK CLINIC FOR FUNCTIONAL NERVE CASES, 51, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.—Wed., 5 p.m., Compulsion Neurosis.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, W.C.1.—Thurs., 5 p.m., Geoffrey E. Duveen Lectures in Otology: Intracranial Complications in Middle-Ear Diseases.

WEST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Hammersmith, W.—Mon., 12 noon, Demonstration of Fractures. Tues., 12 noon, Chest Cases. Wed., 12.15 p.m., Medical Pathology. Thurs., 12 noon, Diseases of the Heart. Fri., 12 noon, Surgical Pathology. Sat., 10 a.m., Medical Diseases of Children. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., In- and Out-patients, Operations, Special Departments.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY.—Bristol Eye Hospital: Mon. to Fri. daily, 10 a.m., Lectures.; 2.30 p.m., Demonstrations.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY CLINICAL SCHOOL.—Post-Graduate Lectures, 3.30 p.m. Mon., Children's Hospital: Cases. Tues., Southern Hospital: Neurasthenia. Thurs., Stanley Hospital: Surgical Conditions of Gall Bladder. Fri., Royal Infirmary: Surgical Cases.

British Medical Association.

OFFICES AND LIBRARY, 429, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Reference and Lending Library.

THE READING ROOM, in which books of reference, periodicals, and standard works can be consulted, is open to members from 10 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., Saturdays 10 to 2.

LENDING LIBRARY: Members are entitled to borrow books, including current medical works; they will be forwarded if desired, on application to the Librarian, accompanied by 6d. for each volume for postage and packing.

Departments.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS (Financial Secretary and Business Manager. Telegrams: Articulate Westrand, London).
MEDICAL SECRETARY (Telegrams: Medisecra Westrand, London).
EDITOR, *British Medical Journal* (Telegrams: Aitiology Westrand, London).
Telephone number for all departments: Gerrard 2630 (*3 lines*).

SCOTTISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 6, Rutland Square, Edinburgh. (Telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh. Tel.: 4361 Central.)
IRISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 15, South Frederick Street, Dublin. (Telegrams: Bacillus, Dublin. Tel.: 4737 Dublin.)

Diary of the Association.

JUNE.

20 Fri. Mid-Cheshire Division: Altrincham Hospital. B.M.A. Lecture by Dr. Geoffrey Evans: The Essential Signs of Arterio-Sclerotic Disease, 8.30 p.m.
Sheffield Division: Church House, St. James Street, Sheffield, 8.30 p.m.

24 Tues. London: Post Office Medical Officers' Subcommittee, 2.30 p.m.
Cambridge and Huntingdon Branch: Annual Meeting, Doddington. Meeting, 1.15 p.m.; Luncheon, 1.45 p.m.; Presidential Address, 3 p.m.
Harrogate Division: Social Gathering, Knaresborough, 4 p.m.
Kent Branch: Annual Meeting, Town Hall, Maidstone. Luncheon, Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone, 1.30 p.m. Business Meeting, 2.45 p.m. President's Address, 3.15 p.m. Visit to East Malling Experimental Research Station, 4 p.m. Annual Dinner, 6.30 p.m. Competition for Tennyson Smith Golf Challenge Cup will take place during the day.

25 Wed. London: Committee to consider Report of Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India, 2.30 p.m.
Bath and Bristol Branch: Annual Meeting. Presidential Address by Dr. H. C. Bristowe on the Psychology of Mental Deficients.
Edinburgh Branch: Annual Meeting, West Linton. Luncheon, 12.30 p.m. Golf, tennis, etc., 1.30 p.m. Tea, 4.30 p.m. Business Meeting, 5 p.m.
Tunbridge Wells Division: Annual Meeting, General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, 8.30 p.m.

26 Thurs. London: Organization of Medical Students Subcommittee, 2 p.m.
Staffordshire Branch: Annual Meeting, North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, 4 p.m.; Dinner, 6.30 p.m.
Sussex Branch: Annual Meeting, Royal Victoria Hotel, St. Leonards, 2.15 p.m. Lunch, 1.15 p.m.

27 Fri. London: Ministry of Healing Committee, 2.30 p.m.
Border Counties Branch: Annual Meeting, County and Station Hotel, Carlisle. Presidential Address by Dr. M. Bryson, on Gideon Gray and the New Midwifery, 3.30 p.m. Branch Council, 3 p.m.
Essex Branch: Annual Meeting, Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, 2.15 p.m. Council meeting, 12.45 p.m. Lunch, 1.15 p.m.
Metropolitan Counties Branch: Annual Meeting, 429, Strand, W.C.2, 4 p.m.
Oxford and Reading Branch: Annual Golf Meeting, Huntercombe.

28 Sat. East York and North Lincoln Branch: Annual Meeting, Powolny's Rooms, King Edward Street, Hull, 1 p.m. Luncheon at conclusion of meeting.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 9s., which sum should be forwarded with the notice not later than the first post on Tuesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

BIRTHS.

IMPEY.—On June 12th, at Cape Town, to Adele Impey, M.B., Ch.B., and R. Lance Impey, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.S., a son.

MACLEOD.—On June 7th, at 52, Baxter Gate, Loughborough, Leicestershire, to Dr. and Mrs. Neil Macleod (*née* Ruth Hill, M.B., Ch.B.), a son.

SAVY.—On June 11th, at Sonnhalde, Kingussie, the wife of Felix Savy, M.B., Ch.B., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

HEBBLETHWAITE—ANDERSON.—At the Chapel Royal, Savoy, on June 7th, 1924, by the Rev. Hugh Chapman, Dr. F. W. Hebblethwaite of Middlesbrough, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Hebblethwaite of Saltburn-by-Sea, to Annette G. Turnbull Anderson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.Cantab., youngest daughter of the late Thomas Anderson, A.M.Inst.C.E., Royal Indian Marine, and Mrs. Anderson, of 9, Belsize Park, N.W.

PIERCE—JONES.—On June 3rd, 1924, Gwilym Llewellyn Pierce, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin. and Glasgow), son of the late Hugh Davies-Jones, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), and Mrs. Davies-Jones, Mountain Ash, to Lesta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bryfdir Jones, Preswylfa, Blaenau Festiniog.

WILLIAMS—WILKINS.—On June 4th, 1924, at All Saints' Parish Church, Leamington Spa, by the Rev. R. C. Herring, M.A., John McGeagh Williams, M.D., D.P.H., Tuberculosis Officer for the County of Warwick, only son of the Rev. J. Foster Williams, B.A., and Mrs. Williams of Belfast, to Elizabeth, only child of the late John Wilkins and Mrs. Payne, of Leamington Spa.

DEATHS.

EMMETT.—On June 8th, at "Winton," London Road, Portsmouth, suddenly, Richard Emmett, M.D., J.P., aged 66 years.

SMITH.—On June 8th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, Matthew Baird Smith, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.Edin., of Stroud, Gloucestershire, aged 39.

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